



## Meeting Summary

---

### Steering Committee Meeting 1 – Oct 20, 2020 | Redstone Park Improvements

**Steering Committee Members in attendance:** Gentrye Houghton (RCA Rep), Nancy Chromy (Redstone HPC Rep) Maciej Mrotek (Caucus Rep), Ronald Phaneuf, Lisa Wagner, Larry Meredith, Chuck Downey, Kathy Enman, Mark Hilberman, Jake Marine, Alyce Meredith, and Becky Trembley. **Other Attendees:** Tyler (new General Store Owner), Jeff and Jeanette Bier, and Frank a neighbor to the south **DHM Staff:** Jason Jaynes and Allie Newman. **Open Space Staff:** Jessie Young, Lindsey Utter

The first Steering Committee meeting for the Redstone Park Improvements took place on October 20, at 4:00 pm in Redstone Park. The objective was to determine a clear direction for the Park program, goals, character and elements, building on the *Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan* (December 2010) and 2020 Visioning process. DHM staff led the meeting.

The meeting began with introductions and meeting attendees voicing their involvement, connection and ideas for the Park. This was followed by a brief summary of the history of the improvement process so far including a summary of the 2010 Management Plan and 2020 Visioning process. The project schedule and overview was covered in detail, along with expectations of the Committee and how input will be utilized by the design team. A site tour was led by Jason Jaynes of DHM to discuss the existing park elements and proposed improvements laid out in the 2010 Plan. Finally, the group discussed the goals, priorities, elements and character of the park.

The topics that were covered included:

- **The character of the park.** The overall park aesthetics, sense of place and desired feeling for the park to evoke.
- **The elements and features of the park.** Desired park features such as play areas and play equipment, furnishings and pathways.
- **The functional uses and circulation of the park.** Understanding how the park is/will be used? Examples may be picnicking, play, fishing, events etc.
- **The relationship of the park to the river frontage.** The relationship of Redstone Park to the Crystal River and the confluence of Coal Creek is special and requires specific attention due to the complicated management and regulatory overlay that exists when proposing work within a floodway and river corridor.

### Meeting Findings and Themes

The major themes of consensus that were communicated by the Steering Committee were:

- **Less is More.** The park “feels” right for the community and character of Redstone. Major changes to Park aesthetics, character and sense of place are not desired
- The rustic and “natural” character of the park should be maintained

# DHM DESIGN

- Family and community gathering space is a primary goal to maintain
- The balance of passive and active areas is important
- Upgrading park utilities for events, holiday lighting, and ice skating is a high priority
- Better connections to the Boulevard are warranted for safety and to connect the park to the town and pedestrian bridge
- Maintaining views is essential.
- The ice rink has become a community asset and the park design should incorporate its continued winter use as well as a compatible summer use of the Meredith Parcel (for which there are a number of ideas)
- The park should continue to support the current community events that take place there (in particular the winter ice skating and summer concert series, community meetings/events such as Easter egg hunts (potential improvements to the pavilion are desired)
- Improving/maintaining river access is a goal
- Support for limited increase in parking

## Items of discussion that did not achieve consensus were:

- The option to add a path running through the park
- How to improve the pavilion area
- Accessible access, in amount, location
- Summer programming and surfacing of the Meredith lot
- Thinning vs. preserving existing trees
- How to address existing monuments

## Detailed Meeting Comments Summary

### South End of Park: Park Entry, Play Equipment, River Access (Large Eddy), Picnic Areas

- There is a disconnect from the park entry, through the park to the pedestrian bridge
  - This creates park user conflicts especially with people on bikes
  - More intuitive access from the bridge to the Boulevard should be provided.
- The park entry is not accessible for all potential users and has degraded over time
  - Removing vegetation in this area would allow for a larger, straighter entry
  - The “mountain town ruggedness” should be preserved. Do not swing the pendulum too far and make the park “too accessible”
- Consolidating the play equipment would allow parents to have a wider view of all the equipment and children playing. It would also provide a larger area for an entrance to the park
  - Improving the fencing around the playground could be a benefit to safety. Character images of options for fencing would be ideal to establish desired direction, having the visibility through to the Boulevard is important.
  - “Limbing up” the existing spruce would likely improve lines of visibility

# DHM DESIGN

- The current equipment is geared toward smaller children
  - The play equipment is sufficient and can be reused.
- River access to large eddy near the bridge is a popular place to interact with the river even during high water
  - Maintaining/enhancing this access would be a benefit – improve stairs/path
  - Access should be rustic and “natural” in character. Potentially utilizing large boulders.
  - The memorial bench should be preserved. The memorial gardens should be reclaimed, potentially become native plantings (the individual who originally maintained this area as a memorial garden has since left the community and the area is no longer maintained).
  - An accessible river overlook could be desirable
- The marble tables and sunk-in lawn area
  - Leveling out the lawn would make the park safer and more user friendly
  - The change in grade on the grassy slope from the levee to the Boulevard is a fun element of the park and the play area – there is desire to maintain some of these unique elements
  - Other picnic tables are often moved by users or for events and it would be nice to have lighter-weight models
  - Nice to maintain the visual connection from the lawn area where the main concert seating is to the playground so that parents can watch the concerts and their kids on the playground at the same time

## South Central: Lawn and Pavilion Area

- This is the central focus point of many events and has great downriver views
- It would be ideal if the pavilion structure was larger and could accommodate more uses and programs
  - Pavilion should be open, simple and match the character of the architecture in Redstone
  - Pavilion site and design should preserve views and be functional for events
  - Incorporating electrical outlets into structure is desired
- Parking is a concern, especially during events
- The large spruce trees are valuable to the community for the screening they provide
  - The trees are planted very tightly together, consideration should be paid to the long-term health and growth of the trees
- Creating a walkway along the top of the levee has pros and cons
  - Cons: constricts lawn, creates user conflicts, changes park feel
  - Pros: moves pedestrians and cyclists through park instead of on Boulevard, could create a unified park experience, would be a more accessible way for a large user group to circulate through the park
- The condition of the levee is degraded with boulders “slumping” away from lawn and is potentially dangerous. Restoring this area is desired.

# DHM DESIGN

- Site furnishings are currently more “hodgepodge” than cohesive. Character images of options for site furnishing would be ideal to establish desired direction.
- Secondary river access could be improved. Character images of options for river access would be ideal to establish desired direction.
- Creating an entrance in this area as depicted on the 2010 Management Plan is supported

## **North Central: Museum and Large Lawn**

- 2010 Management Plan depicts additional parallel parking. This is still a desired element
- Conceal the RCA dumpster
- Incorporate utilities (power, water fountain, etc.) in this location
- This space is ideal for larger groups/gatherings. Maintain this programming
- An additional access area, as depicted in the 2010 Management Plan, may not be necessary here

## **North End of Park / Meredith Parcel**

- More work is needed in this area than the other areas of the park
- There is a vegetation barrier between the two parcels.
- The ice skate rink is a community asset that should be maintained
- The parking as depicted on the 2010 Management Plan is not compatible with the current use and program for the skating rink
- The surface of this area should be compatible with the ice rink – could evaluate the pros/cons of lawn/turf, concrete, or asphalt
- The wide, flat area could accommodate passive or active uses. It would be ideal to see options of both
- There are a lot of trees in this area. Some of the trees make it difficult to maintain the ice rink (due to dropping pinecones / needles etc.) Strategically removing some trees could also make space to accommodate a larger rink surface.
- A permanent lighting solution is needed for the ice rink (for maintenance done at night) as well as power to the skate shed if possible
- A third entrance as depicted on the 2010 Management Plan is desired in this location
  - This could be an ideal location for ADA access.